

tion. \* \* \* My observation in life has taught me that when men have power they are apt to use it. \* \* \* Give these gentlemen arbitrary power and no man, be he democrat or republican, can receive recognition in New Hampshire unless he wears the color of a powerful and insolent corporation. \* \* \* I am against the Boston and Maine railroad because it is designed to put in the hands of a few men greater power than can be safely intrusted to them. The distribution of free passes or mileage books is widespread and everywhere prevalent among government officials and persons of influence. All lawyers ride free. The editors and newspaper managers ride free. Ministers ride free or at special rates. The governor rides free. His council rides free. All officers at the state house ride free. The members of the legislature all ride free, not only during the session, but during the rest of the year. County, city and town officers ride free. The wives and children of most of the free riders also ride free. Above all, local politicians in every town and ward ride free. The exceptions to the above statements are so few that they prove the general rule. Corruption by free passes and mileage tickets is almost universal. No person of any importance in town or state fails to ride free unless he omits to ask for his free pass or his free ticket. If any person, high or low, rich or poor, is heard to make vigorous protest against any railroad wrong he is approached by some ready emissary of the road and quieted by a free pass. It is only desirable at this gathering to refer briefly to the progress of reform in the nation, which began about the time of the election by the people of Mr. Roosevelt. He is one of the remarkable men of this epoch. It is impossible wisely to assert that the reforms would have begun at this time with any man not possessing the traits and faults which have characterized him. The progressives and the insurgents are true republicans. To the latter we are indebted for escaping defeat if we do escape it in the coming national elections. For their work of rebellion and their rescue thereby of the republican party from annihilation the insurgents are entitled to all credit and should be respected and honored by all just republicans everywhere. Always up to this moment I have said that I would not be willing to destroy an American industry in order to destroy a trust monopolizing its product, and crowding up its prices, without competition. But lately, in view of the vast growth and reckless power of the trusts, I have felt like changing my opinion and to hold, as I now do, that whenever the government can not destroy a monopolistic trust without destroying the industry itself, it is better to resort to this destruction rather than to endure the oppression of the crime of the trust."

**F**AIRHOPE, ALABAMA, is said to be the only community in the United States where the theories of Henry George in relation to land taxation have been put into practical operation. A writer in the Houston (Texas) Post says: "Mrs. Frank Johnson, who is connected with the Fairhope School of Organic Education, has recently been visiting the northwest and while in St. Paul, Minn., she submitted to an interview as to the workings of the single tax in this southern community. What she has to say in this connection has received considerable notice and comment from editors who make economics a close study and a subject to be enlarged upon at every favorable opportunity. It would appear from what Mrs. Johnson has to say that the Fairhope single tax colony was founded some fifteen years ago by three advanced thinkers from Des Moines, Iowa, who were devoted followers of Henry George—E. B. Gaston, Frank Brown and James Bellanger. They bought a tract of 2,000 acres and bound themselves to administer the affairs of the projected colony in accordance with the views held by the founder of the single tax movement. Under the agreement entered into, anybody could go to Fairhope and purchase a lot of any size up to ten acres by agreeing to pay a yearly rental for its use sufficient to take for the community the unearned increment, and a person taking land in Fairhope under these conditions, became a member of the corporation with a voice in its management. Mrs. Johnson, in her interview, talks interestingly of the steady growth of Fairhope compared to surrounding towns until the original tract has doubled in size and the membership of the colony had increased to 700 and how opposition from the town residents who do not believe in the single tax was among the chief difficulties which had to be met and

overcome. The plan originally was to abolish speculation in land and in this Mrs. Johnson says it has succeeded since, while privately owned property in Fairhope is high, it is not saleable as the land of the corporation is always available for settlement by the prospective incomer paying the annual land or increment tax to the community. Public ownership of public utilities is the rule at Fairhope. State and county tax obligations are met in the usual way and paid out of the community treasury. The state and county tax authorities levy the taxes and the corporation pays them out of the general fund raised by the annual land tax. At present the community is ruled by the convention plan of government, but it is said that the commission plan is almost certain to be adopted by the colonists. It is a little early to undertake to pass judgment on the experiment for many reasons, chief among which is that it has not yet passed the state of experimentation and must undergo the rigid test of conflicting individual interests which come with growth and augmentation of community power. Nevertheless, it is not too early to applaud the motives of the founders of the colony as there exists, even in the minds of men who are unconvinced of the feasibility of the Henry George plan, a strong desire that his theories should be put fully and freely to the test of experience before pronounced a failure."

**G**ENERAL MARCUS J. Wright of the war department says that only thirty generals of the confederate forces are now living, as follows: Lieutenant general, Simon Bolivar Buckner; major generals, Robert F. Hoke, G. W. Curtis Lee, Lunsford L. Lomax and Camillus J. Polignac; brigadier generals, William L. Cabell, Francis M. Cockrell, William R. Cox, Julius A. DeLagnel (declined appointment), Henry B. Davidson, Basil W. Duke, Clement A. Evans, Samuel W. Ferguson, Daniel C. Goven, James M. Goggin, William W. Kirkland, Evander M. Law, Thomas M. Logan, William Miller, John McCausland, Dandridge McRae, William McComb, John C. Moore, Patrick T. Moore, Francis T. Nicholls, Roger A. Pryor, Beverly H. Robertson, James P. Simms, Richard Waterhouse and Marcus J. Wright. Referring to this

list the Birmingham (Ala.) Age-Herald says: "Many of these men have been prominent in civil life as well. General Buckner was governor of Kentucky from 1887 to 1891, and was the candidate for vice president on the gold democratic ticket in 1896. He is the sole surviving member of the West Point class of 1844. General Cockrell served thirty years as United States senator from Missouri. General Nicholls was twice governor of Louisiana, and is at present an associate justice of that state's supreme court. General Pryor served as justice of the supreme court in New York City, and General Evans is a prison commissioner of Georgia. General Cabell served four terms as mayor of Dallas, Texas, and General Cox was secretary of the United States senate six years. The list of the veterans who were generals in the confederate service is indeed becoming brief, and all of the survivors have passed, no doubt, the allotted age of man."

"HISTORY LESSON"

Writing in the Louisville Courier-Journal, Henry Watterson says: "The republican party, with William Howard Taft in the White House, encounters very much the same conditions that overtook and overwhelmed the old historic democratic party, with James Buchanan in the White House, fifty years ago. The role played by Stephen A. Douglas then is filled by Theodore Roosevelt now. The institution of African slavery, swallowing all other issues, held the center of the stage. The issue of predatory wealth, circling about the protective tariff system, has come in the fullness of time to occupy the center of the stage. In many ways the outer aspects and internal qualities of the two are identical."

But when the issue was slavery the republican party, moving toward victory, did not promise more slavery; nor did it surrender itself into the keeping of those who were interested in perpetuating slavery. Now that the American people are confronted with "the issue of predatory wealth" and are turning from the republican party because it has become the champion of predatory wealth, the democratic party must not surrender itself into the keeping of men who are interested in perpetuating these very evils.

The Commoner's Million Army

I. H. Woodworth, Culver, Kan.—Will do what I can to increase The Commoner's circulation. I always feel that I have done a man real service when I have induced him to take The Commoner.

W. J. Gillmore, Cullison, Kan.—I desire to say that whatever help I can do for The Commoner will gladly be given. The work of Aldrich, Cannon and Taft are means to the same end and I believe the people are satisfied that an open platform and men with a sense of justice who realize that it should be binding is the only recourse. The fight that Mr. Bryan is making for the initiative and referendum is an encouraging one. Keep the good work going and justice shall be accomplished.

W. C. Snodgrass, Douglas, Kan.—I intend to send you a club of one hundred for four months. This will put the paper in every home in my precinct, Walnut township, Butler county, Kan. This four months trial will, I believe, give you several permanent subscribers and thus help along "the rule of the people."

In the campaign of 1908 The Commoner's Million Army rendered distinguished service to the cause of democracy and it may well be believed that a similar organization will even be able to do better work in the year of 1910 now that men who were heretofore indifferent are aroused to the importance of action.

If half of the readers of The Commoner would take active interest in the organization of this Million Army plan, the results would be immediately noticeable and the contribution to the welfare of popular government would be enormous.

Many individuals are willing to help in a patriotic movement but find it difficult to know just what to do to make their efforts count. In a struggle such as the one we are now engaging in, the efforts of every man, woman and child on the side of popular government will count and in The Commoner's Million Army a practical plan is presented whereby the efforts of many individuals may be aggregated and used with telling effect.

APPLICATION BLANK

## The Commoner's Million Army

*I hereby enlist in The Commoner's Million Army, and pledge my assistance to secure the nomination of only worthy and incorruptible men as democratic candidates; that I will attend democratic primaries and nominating conventions, and assist in promoting the great democratic campaign of education by devoting a reasonable share of my time to the distribution of literature. I will recommend worthy persons for membership in The Commoner's Million Army, and in any way I can assist to increase the usefulness of this organization.*

Signed.....

Address.....

With the understanding that Mr. Bryan agrees to accept annual subscriptions to The Commoner from members of this Army at a net rate of 65 cents each, and that each subscription to The Commoner shall include a subscription to The American Homestead (a strong home and farm paper)—thus leaving The Commoner free to devote its undivided efforts to political matters and current events—I enclose herewith 65 cents for one annual subscription to The Commoner (including The American Homestead). If you are already a subscriber to The Commoner and do not care to extend your expiration date at this time, the last paragraph above may be disregarded.

**Recommendation for Membership**

The signer of this enlistment blank is personally known to me, and is in every way worthy of membership in The Commoner's Million Army.

Signed.....

Address.....